



Summary Report	Fatality	6/4/2020
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1. Victim: Anthony Buber – four-year-old male

2. Was the child residing in the child's home or in an out-of-home placement at the time of the fatality?

The child was residing in his home when the following incident occurred:

On August 14, 2018, the Department of Child Safety received a report regarding 4-year-old Anthony Buber who had been found unresponsive in the home where he lived with his mother, Katherine Buber, and stepfather, David Withrow. He was transported to the hospital and was observed to have extensive bruising on multiple planes of his body. He was pronounced deceased shortly after arrival and an autopsy was performed by the Pinal County Medical Examiner on August 14, 2018. The autopsy report was finalized on December 5, 2018, with the cause of death listed as complications of blunt force abdominal trauma. The Pinal County Medical Examiner's report noted that Anthony had allegedly fallen from the top of a bunk bed approximately one week prior to the death, but also stated inflicted injuries could not be excluded. The Pinal County Medical Examiner ruled the manner of death as undetermined. On November 4, 2019, the Department substantiated the allegations of physical abuse and neglect pertaining to the mother and stepfather due to the child sustaining unexplained injuries while in their care and failure to provide Anthony with medical care after the alleged fall from the bunkbed.

3. If the victim in the Preliminary Report involved a child residing in the child's home, the following information will be provided:

a. Services being provided to the child, a member of the child's family or the person suspected of the abuse or neglect at the time of the incident and the date of the last contact before the incident between the entity providing services and the person receiving services:

No services were being provided to the family by the Department of Child Safety at the time of the incident.

b. Was the child, a member of the child's family or the person suspected of the abuse or neglect the subject of a report for investigation at the time of the incident?

No.

c. All involvement of the child's parents and of the person suspected of the abuse or neglect in a situation for which a report for investigation was made or in services provided pursuant to this chapter in the five years preceding the incident:

The child's parents were involved in the following report in the five years preceding the incident:

On February 10, 2017, a report was received alleging neglect to Anthony Buber and his siblings by their mother, Katherine Buber, and their father. The allegations were unsubstantiated and the family declined services offered by the Department.



d. Any investigation pursuant to a report for investigation concerning the child, a member of the child's family or the person suspected of the abuse or neglect or services provided to the child or the child's family since the date of the incident involving the fatality:

The report regarding the fatality was investigated and the Department substantiated the allegations of neglect to Anthony by his mother, Katherine Buber, and stepfather, David Withrow. A subsequent report was received on August 7, 2019, alleging physical abuse to Anthony's sibling by their stepmother. The allegation was unsubstantiated and the case was closed.

4. If the victim in the Preliminary Report involved a child residing in an out-of-home placement, the following information will be provided:

a. Licensing Agency:

N/A

b. Licensing history of the out-of-home placement, including the type of license held by the operator of the placement and the period for which the placement has been licensed:

N/A

c. Summary of all violations by the licensee:

N/A

d. Any other actions by the licensee or an employee of the licensee that constitute a substantial failure to protect and promote the health, safety and welfare of a child.

N/A

5. Actions taken by the Department in response to the case including any changes to policy or practice and/or recommendations for further changes in policies, practices, rules or statutes:

The Department conducted a joint investigation with the Apache Junction Police Department. The Department substantiated the allegations of neglect to Anthony by his mother, Katherine Buber, and stepfather, David Withrow. A subsequent report was received on August 7, 2019, alleging physical abuse to Anthony's sibling by their stepmother. The allegation was unsubstantiated and the case was closed.

Additionally, in accordance with the DCS Strategic Plan for State Fiscal Year 2016 (FY16), multidisciplinary team (MDT) reviews of fatality and near fatality cases were implemented during the first quarter of FY16. The MDT reviews of fatality and near fatality cases, especially those with prior DCS involvement, are a key feature of the Strategic Plan and support the objective of increasing the accuracy of safety and risk assessments in investigations.

Cases are reviewed by the MDT in order to identify any systemic factors, both internal and external to the Department that may have had an impact. The Department uses the aggregate data gathered through all of the MDT reviews to assess and guide future changes and/or recommendations to policies, practices, rules or statutes. Findings from these reviews are compiled into an annual report to be shared on the DCS website. The target date for release of the next report is December 1, 2020.



ARIZONA
DEPARTMENT
of CHILD SAFETY

Mike Faust, Director
Douglas A. Ducey, Governor

For more information regarding the Department of Child Safety's Strategic Plan for State Fiscal Year 2016, please visit the DCS website.